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The Crucible

Published Monthly
by the
PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I. FEBRUARY, 1918. NUMBER 1.

THE 142nd MEETING

Pittsburgh Section
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, Feb. 21, 1918, at 8:15 P. M.

Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh

"OPTICAL GLASS"

—BY—

A. E. WILLIAMS

of the United States Bureau of Standards.

Mr. Williams is a graduate of the Department of Ceramic Engineering, Ohio State University. Since his graduation he has been actively engaged in various commercial plants and in conducting researches not only in the domain of the glass industry, but also in other ceramic fields. These latter researches were carried out principally at the University of Illinois, where he was an instructor in the Department of Ceramic Engineering. Some of this work included the manufacture of barium and ruby glasses. For the past two years, Mr. Williams has been connected with the United States Bureau of Standards. At the Bureau, he has developed an optical glass laboratory and also a small plant capable of supplying a certain amount of the needs of the United States Government for various uses.

Members of the Section should welcome the opportunity to hear Mr. Williams tell of the great strides made in America in the development of the optical glass industry, both from the manufacturing and laboratory standpoint.

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A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

The American nation has begun the new year keyed up to the strenuous tasks of war, and each of her citizens must contribute his share of the tremendous effort that shall bring victory and a return of peace and safety to a distracted world. We are a great people—we announce it; the world admits it—yet in our very size lie the dangers of unwieldiness and lack of organization that prevent the full exercise of our strength.

Every strong national organization, therefore, gives its members a distinct advantage as they seek for definite aims and outlets for patriotic effort. We know how the American Chemical Society has already contributed to the preparation of this country for war, and how the leaders of the Society have been accepted as leaders in those phases of war-making that come within the scope of our Science.

And for our local Section and its members there are also opportunities afforded by organization. No Pittsburgh industry need lack for chemists, while any are available; nor any of our members fail to find the place where he can serve mose efficiently. Has one of us a problem beyond his training and experience to solve? He can present it to his fellow-chemists and find eager response and assistance. Has one of us a new idea that ought to be brought to the attention of some industry besides his own, to increase production or conserve human effort? Let him present it before the Section; receive the benefit of criticism and suggestion from others, and thus pass the thought on where it can best be used.

This is no time for hoarding of money, goods, or brains. In this pooling of the chemical intellects of the Pittsburgh District, there must be no holding back for a price. Reward, if any of a monetary sort, must come later, as a result of enhanced individual merit and reputation. A great army of the young men of the United States are giving themselves to the struggle—perhaps will give their lives. Some of us chafe at the ties or deplore the years that keep us from going to the front with those men. Let us then seize these opportunities for service of a real kind, and offer our utmost skill in furthering inventions, processes, or economies that may count as many soldiers in the Great War.

S. R. SCHOLES.

NEW COMMITTEES

The following Committees have been appointed by the Chairman for 1918:

PROGRAM: E. W. Tillotson, Chairman, R. H. Brownlee, J. O. Handy.

FINANCE: J. M. Camp, Chairman, C. G. Fisher, A. C. Fieldner.

ENTERTAINMENT: D. S. Pratt, Chairman, C. W. Clark, H. A. Kohman, C. L. Perkins.

MEMBERSHIP: R. M. Howe, Chairman, Earl Blough, Miss A. D. Butterfield, Charles W. Hill, K. K. Stevens.

PUBLICITY: C. S. Palmer, Chairman, John O'Connor, Jr., Secretary, A. V. Bleininger, J. O. Handy, J. H. James, C. G. Schluederberg, W. A. Selbig, R. E. Zimmerman.

EMPLOYMENT: Alexander Silverman, Chairman, H. H. Craver, S. H. Diehl, J. H. James.

EXTRA

At the Section meeting on Thursday evening, Professor Alexander Silverman of the School of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, will show his new illuminator for microscopes. This illuminator was described in the October number of the JOURNAL of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. It is well worth seeing.

PITTSBURGH SECTION
of the
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R. F. BACON
C. H. VIOL
J. O. HANDY

Editor of THE CRUCIBLE
JOHN O'CONNOR, JR.
Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.

HELLO!

Greetings! members of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society. THE CRUCIBLE greets you out of its heart of hearts and hopes that you are glad to see it. THE CRUCIBLE is very happy to have been brought into existence. It knows that it is one of the signs of the times —the dawn of a new day for the chemist. It hopes to play a small part as the interpreter of that new day to the people of the Pittsburgh District.

THE CRUCIBLE greets you again, Brother Chemist, and trusts that you are as glad to have it with you as it is to be with you.

LOST SHEEP.

In the JOURNAL of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry for January there was an editorial on "The Missing Five Thousand." The census compiled by the Chemical Society and the United States Bureau of Mines for the purpose of possible war service revealed the fact that there are five thousand chemists in the United States who are not members of the national organization of chemists.

There is little doubt that there are about three hundred of the missing five thousand within the territory covered by the Pittsburgh Section. We, therefore, beg to announce on behalf of the Membership Committee that plans will be outlined in the March number of THE CRUCIBLE for bringing the missing three hundred into the fold. In the meantime, members of the Pittsburgh Section, think what you can do to assist in the membership campaign. Better still, begin the campaign now by asking the chemist, who works next to you, why he is not a member of the Section. Perhaps no one has ever asked him that before. Then keep after him until he sends in his name to the Society.

The Pittsburgh Section must round up its quota of "The Missing Five Thousand."

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The attention of the members is called to the work of the Employment Committee, which is printed in this number of THE CRUCIBLE. With the proper co-operation on the part of all, the activities of this Committee will do much to make the Society of value to the members and to the community.

Help to spread the news to employers of the work which this Committee is undertaking. See that these employers are furnished with Employment Bureau cards. If you know of a good position that is open for a brother chemist, pass the word along to the Committee. Your co-operation is solicited for making the work of the Employment Bureau a success.

SCIENCE AT THE FRONT.

Ever since gunpowder was introduced into warfare, chemistry has been recognized as the one science which was essential in the preparations for war; but a new chapter was opened when the Germans introduced poisonous gases as an instrument of death, in place of bullets. This was at the second battle of Ypres, in which the Canadian soldiers suffered so cruelly. The plan then followed was to transport to the front-line trenches steel cylinders containing the liquefied gases, level down the edge of the parapet toward the British forces, letting the nozzles project over the top, and then wait for a favorable wind.

Of course, as soon as the idea of the Germans in planning this hideous mode of warfare was recognized, it became comparatively easy to block it; the preparations could always be seen; then a bombardment could be set up which destroyed the tanks where they were, much to the distress of the Germans themselves. Consequently, the manner of using poisonous gases had to be altered; and the plan adopted was to take the shells in use with the big guns and fill them with the liquefied gases instead of with shrapnel. Special guns were devised for use at short range; and these so-called gas-shells now form a most important feature of artillery.

The only protection against these gases is a mask which may be put on quickly, and which is so constructed mechanically that the man can breathe in and out without strangling. The part of the chemist was to determine what substance should be put in the passages through which the air is inhaled, so as to absorb the poisonous gases. The way in which the English and French chemists solved this problem—for it is solved—excites the admiration of the world; and the real scientific work done in connection with it is a great contribution to pure science.

When the moral question involved in the use of gas as a weapon in war was settled and the Allies determined also to adopt it, chemists were again appealed to. The result has been a study of hundreds upon hundreds of gases, their toxicity, their density, their liquefaction, and the ease of manufacture; and here again the purely scientific side of the subject will be of permanent value. The work is going on unceasingly. Chemists are attached to all the armies, and chemical laboratories are in operation; so that, if the Germans send over any new shells,—and a certain proportion always fail to explode,—they may be investigated instantly. If the British line receives this favor from the Germans, the gas is studied, and the French chemists are told; and vice versa. There is complete co-operation. All the time, too, great laboratories in Paris and all over England are at work; all the chemists of both countries are government servants to-day. The men employed in actual scientific work, including testing, are numbered by tens of thousands.

Among the other ways in which chemists are helping to win the war is one which will probably strike an American as semi-amusing, although it is far from it. This is by the investigation of invisible inks. The subject sounds reminiscent of detective stories. As a matter of cold fact, England and France are thoroughly penetrated by the German spy system; and the Secret Service officials of both countries are kept busy to the utmost of their ability in order to cope with the situation. It is much easier to devise an invisible ink than it is to discover the method by which the writing may be revealed. For, imagine a piece of apparently blank paper being found under suspicious circumstances: what should one do with it? Expose it to some gas or liquid which might bring out the written words? How can one be sure that the gas or liquid thus used may not obliterate the traces sought? This is the exact difficulty. Many inks are in use, of such a character that the obvious tests would result in a destruction of the evidence. The moral is, do not use the obvious tests. One can easily see what a field there is here for chemical investigations; and it is satisfactory to know that they have been made, and are continuing.

Other ways in which chemistry is being applied in warfare are numerous, indeed, but are almost obvious to one who asks himself how it could be used. The all-important fact is that the professional soldier has come to recognize the value of the chemist, and the latter has welcomed the opportunity for service.

JOSEPH S. AMES.

The Atlantic Monthly—Jan. 1918.

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LOCAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

Realizing the great demand for chemists and also the possibility that some members of the Pittsburgh Section might wish to better their lot, Chairman Scholes has created a local clearing house of the nature of an employment committee, personnel as follows:—

Prof. A. Silverman, Chairman, University of Pittsburgh.

H. H. Craver, Chief Chemist, Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory.

S. H. Diehl, Superintendent, Aetna Chemical Co.

Prof. J. H. James, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

The committee encloses two cards with this issue of THE CRUCIBLE, one for employers seeking chemists, the other for chemists interested in new openings.

Notices of unfilled openings and of positions wanted will be printed in future issues of THE CRUCIBLE.

Cards and communications should be sent to Prof. A. Silverman, University of Pittsburgh. No names will be published. The committee will consider all communications confidential.

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terested in any of the following communicate with Prof. A. Silversity of Pittsburgh.

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Chemist,—Assistant in a State laboratory to analyze fertilizers and feed stuffs. Salary $100 per month at start.

Chemist,—Assistant for alloys steel plant, qualified in analysis of tungsten, molybden, vanadium, chrom, etc., steels. Salary $150 per month.

Chemist,—Assistant for plant manufacturing power accessories to handle routine analytical work. Salary $100 per month.

Wanted—Chemist for steel works to take charge of analytical laboratory. Must do accurate carbon, sulphur, phosphorus, etc., determinations. Salary $150 per month.

Wanted—Analytical chemist for match factory. $90 per month at the start.

Government Positions—Two local openings for sanitary chemists at $2,000 per annum. One opening for explosives chemist at $1,600 to $2,400 per annum.

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The Crucible

Published Monthly
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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME I. APRIL, 1918. NUMBER 3.

THE 144th MEETING
Pittsburgh Section
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1918, at 8:15 P. M.

Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh

"Studies in Inorganic Colloids"

—By—

MARKS NEIDLE, Ph.D.,

Assistant Professor of Analytical and Physical Chemistry,
University of Pittsburgh.

In view of the wide application of colloidal chemistry to analytical chemistry and to the tanning, rubber, ceramic and other industries, this talk will be of more than special interest. This particular field is the "unexplored continent" of chemistry.

The speaker, Dr. Marks Neidle, has been connected with the School of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, for the past five years. He was educated at the College of the City of New York and at Columbia University. From the latter institution he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1913. His thesis work was on Surface Tension.

Dr. Neidle has conducted extensive researches in the field of colloidal chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. His original work, which he will describe in his talk, will cover: Methods of Dialysis; Rapid Preparation of Inorganic Colloidal Solutions; and the Constitution of Colloidal Hydrous Oxides. Dr. Neidle will show some very interesting reactions and the talk will be illustrated with slides.

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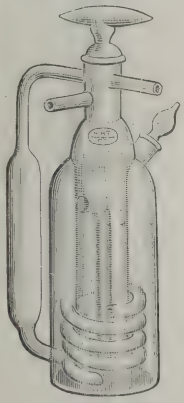

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REMOTE STORAGE

The Crucible

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PITTSBURGH SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I. MARCH, 1918. NUMBER 2

THE 143rd MEETING
Pittsburgh Section
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, March 21, 1918, at 8:15 P. M.
Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh

"Poisonous Gases in Warfare"

—BY—

MAJOR S. J. M. AULD

Chemical Adviser, British Military Mission

At the second battle of Ypres, in April, 1915, a new chapter was begun in the history of warfare when the Germans introduced poisonous gases as a method of death, in place of bullets.

The story of these gases will be told by Major Auld, who was present at the first memorable attack and who has followed the development of gas warfare since that time.

Major Auld was educated at London University and at Wurzburg. When the war broke out, he was Professor of Chemistry at University College, Reading, England. He went to the front early in 1915 and left his regiment about six months later to do gas work. For a time he was Intelligence Officer to the Gas Service in France, then Chemical Adviser to the Third Army. He was wounded in service and received the Military Cross in 1916.

Major Auld is in this country as Chemical Adviser to the British Military Mission.

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PERMANENCE AS AN IDEAL OF RESEARCH*

Truth, beauty, and goodness are accepted as the ideals for human endeavor. Of these ideals, truth is the especial goal of the man of science, and he must lead in its discovery and establishment. And among scientific men, it is the chemist who must discover the truth about the changes that occur or may be made to take place in the composition and constitution of material things.

The outstanding attribute of truth is its eternal character, it endures, it is permanent. We deny the notions of the early chemists who held the phlogiston theory, because it did not stand the test of time. We call Lavoisier the Father of Modern Chemistry because his master-concept of the quantitative character of chemical reactions has endured and become stronger through the years. Permanence is the criterion of ideas, in our Science as in any other; but this test should be applied more severely, not only to ideas, but to things, to the utilities that chemistry produces, that justify it to the world.

If right ideas are permanent, so also must be the material things into which natural resources are made, if they are to be worthy of final acceptance. Against this ideal of permanence stands the great natural tendency of all things to disintegrate and decay—to pass into a useless state. The action of the elements, of abrasion and vibration, erosion and corrosion, disintegration and destruction continually operate to nullify the labors of man and to bring to naught his best material achievements. Steel, for example, is the strongest and most adaptable of our engineering materials, but it yields to the action of the atmosphere, and eventually falls into useless rust. With few exceptions, all our materials follow similar courses, so that the ultimate triumph of decay is voiced in many a pessimistic proverb.

Here is a challenge to the chemist. How to meet it seems a problem more worthy of his effort than is the extension of the number of substances, regardless of their lasting character, or even the establishment of new laws of chemistry, except as they have a bearing on the question of permanence. To make steel, in large quantities, not only strong and cheap but resistent to rust, vibration and other destructive forces; to protect wood from the attack of air and moisture, of insects and fungi; to make glues and cements that will last as long as the substances they bind together; to make dyes that will not fade, and paints and varnishes that will retain color and protective power; to develop rubber so that its useful life is years instead of months; to improve clay products, mortars, and Portland cement until they are indifferent to heat and cold, dryness and moisture; to discover new treatments for textile fabrics that will greatly increase their strength, and resistance to wear and the agencies of decay, and even to fire itself while preserving all their useful characteristics; to improve paper so that the printed page may have some of the lasting qualities of the carven tablets of antiquity; to take from glass some of its fragility—these are among the aims that our research must seek, if our science fulfills its highest mission.

In addition to the value of such results merely as ideals, there would be tremendous economic gains, and, as a corollary, a vast improvement in the condition of the race. So long as the forces of ruin hold their present sway over our best and strongest materials, so long must a large part of the available human energy be expended in repairing and rebuilding. If such duplication of effort could be eliminated, not only would the wealth of the world increase much more rapidly, bringing us more of the useful things for our enjoyment, but the economic leisure of all men would be extended, with all the beneficial results which sociologists can hope from that desideratum.

We are already making progress and considerable research is now under way, as everyone knows, along these lines. Most of the work remains to be done and the initiative rests with the chemists who can understand both the necessity and the promise of research; who have intelligent dissatisfaction with present achievement and imaginations trained to picture ideal materials and to plan for their manufacture.

Here in this great manufacturing district, where huge quantities of engineering materials are made and fabricated, the call for such research is doubly emphatic. It is not only a call, but an opportunity to win fame and fortune together with the deep satisfaction of having rendered real and lasting service.

S. R. Scholes.

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*This is a summary of the talk which was given by Dr. S. R. Scholes at the October, 1917, meeting of the Section. It is printed here by request.

Editor.

PITTSBURGH SECTION of the American Chemical Society

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Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE DRIVE IS ON!

The Secretary reports that the membership of the Section on March 1st, was 407. In the February number of The Crucible, we stated that there were about 300 chemists in the Pittsburgh District who are not members of the American Chemical Society. The membership of the Section at the present time should be about 700.

We do not expect to get "The Missing Three Hundred" into the Section in a body. We do hope to have a membership of 500 by May 1st. The membership drive is, therefore, declared on and a membership of 500 by May 1st is the goal.

There is no question but that the drive will succeed if each member does his part. The drive is on! It is up to you to get that new member.

MAKE THEM WELCOME.

The newspapers are carrying a story that the government is sending a large group of chemists to work in the building of the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory, which will be used as the inspection department of the Aviation Section of the United States Signal Corps. If this is so, it behooves the Section to appoint a Hospitality Committee to welcome these men and to make them at home in Pittsburgh. The Section has an excellent opportunity to do its bit in this way. Get busy.

HELP!

The Crucible is a very small paper. It is not difficult to scrape together enough copy to fill it. That, however, is not the way we want to do. We would like to have plenty of material to select from in order to give the members of the Section an interesting and instructive publication. We want your help to do this. Tell us the kind of news, articles, et cetera, you wish to find in The Crucible. More than that, if you have a brief article—there is not much space in The Crucible, you understand—which you think would be of interest to the members, send it along. Do not read this appeal and forget all about it until the next number of The Crucible comes to your desk. Ye, who have pens prepare to let them flow here and now.

GETTING TOGETHER.

Did you notice anything peculiar at the February meeting of the Section? Well, for one thing, there was an improvement in the attendance, and then there was a little more sociability—getting together—on the part of the members. This should be one of the features of the meetings; one of the reasons why a member will come to a meeting even though the paper of the evening does not appeal particularly to him. We hope that there will be more of this "getting together" at the coming meeting. The talk by Major Auld should bring out a full house and each one at the meeting should meet everybody else who is present.

Loosen up, members! Perhaps, in view of the name of this publication we should say, with more grace, "Melt," members!

At all events, at the March meeting, impose the duty and pleasure upon yourself of shaking hands with at least five members with whom you have never shaken hands before.

Obey the impulse! Speak to the fellow who is a stranger to you.

WATCH US GROW.

At the present time, the Pittsburgh Section has 407 members—a small membership for the industrial center of the United States. In view of this, an application blank for membership in the Society is enclosed with this issue of The Crucible. Talk with your neighbor in the laboratory or your friend around the corner about this membership campaign. Bring him around to hear Major Auld and then get him as a member.

The Secretary of the Section requests that the membership blanks be sent to him and he will forward them to Washington. This will enable him to secure a record of the new members without delay.

The standing of the 407 teams in the membership campaign is as follows:

M. E. Evans	2
Alexander Silverman	1

A report will be insisted upon from the other 405 teams for the April number of The Crucible.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR CHEMISTS.

The Employment Committee announces the following vacancies for chemists. If you are interested write to the Chairman, Prof. A. Silverman, University of Pittsburgh.

One electro chemist, one physical chemist and two organic chemists to engage in research in an industrial plant. Salaries $3,000 to $4,000 per year.

Six organic chemists to engage in research in an industrial plant. Salaries $1,200 to $2,400 per year.

Analyst for non-ferrous alloys, silicates, ores, coal, etc. Salaries $1,200 to $1,800 per year.

Two Iron and Steel Analysts at $150 per month.

Chemist for analysis and heat treatment of shells. Salary $1,200 to $1,500 per year.

Analyst for rubber laboratory at $1,200 per year.

Assistant for factory control and research at $1,200 per year.

Stock keeper to take care of chemical stock at $1,200 per year.

The committee also has a number of openings at salaries below $100 per month in match factories, chemical plants, routine analysis, etc.

CHEMISTS AND THE DRAFT.

All the members of the Section should read carefully the statement from the Chemical Service Section of the National Army, and the communication from the Secretary of the Society, Charles L. Parsons, in regard to chemists in war service which is published in the March Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, pages 234-236.

FATHER GANDER.

There was a man in our town
And he felt wondrous wise.
"The men of science are," he claimed,
"Poor fools who theorize."

But when his business went to pot,
With all his might and main,
He called a chemical engineer
To set him straight again.
—The Little Journal.

CHANGE.

Ruth is an alchemist I know,
And so I'll have to drop her,
For every time I'm out with her
My silver turns to copper.
—Widow.

A GOOD LAW.

Why is Boyle's law like love?
The lower the gas the higher the pressure.
—The Percolator.

A SHORT STORY.

A jolly young chemistry tough,
While mixing a compound of stuff;
Held a match to the vial
And after a while
They found his front teeth and one cuff.
—The Chemist-Analyst.

A green little freshman in a green little way,
Mixed some chemicals up for fun one day.
The green little grasses now tenderly wave
O'er the green little freshman's green little grave.
—Orange Peel.

❁

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By PERCY H. WALKER and F. W. SMITHER
Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Vol. 9, No. 12

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The Crucible

Published Monthly
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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I. MAY, 1918. NUMBER 4.

THE 145th MEETING

Pittsburgh Section

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1918, at 8:15 P. M.

Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh

"Structure and Composition of Coal"

—By—

REINHARDT THIESSEN, Ph.D.,

Chemist and Microscopist, Bureau of Mines.

The coal famine of last winter and the predicted coal shortage during the coming winter has given a new and added interest to all questions relating to coal. The United States, among all the other nations of the world, is exceptionally fortunate in having at its disposal the great mass of information on all phases of coal, obtained through the investigations of its Bureau of Mines.

The speaker, Dr. Thiessen, has been chemist and microscopist of the Bureau of Mines since 1910. He was educated at Lawrence College and at the University of Chicago. From the latter institution, he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1907. Before coming to the Bureau of Mines, he was connected with the United States Geological Survey for three years.

The talk will be illustrated by means of lantern slides, prepared from photomicrographs.

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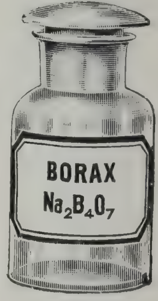

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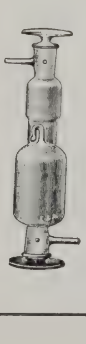

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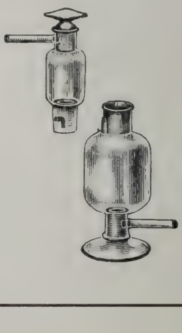

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JUNE MEETING.

The Program Committee has something up its sleeve for the June meeting. Keep your eye on your mail man until he brings you the June Crucible, which will tell you what's doing.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN.

When it comes to predicting when the Section is going to have a membership of five hundred, we feel very much like Kaiser Bill and his statements about the time of his entrance into Paris. The difference is that we are going to get the five hundred, so you see we are not in the least discouraged.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee has sent out a lot of letters, and the Vice Chairman of the Section is conducting a little correspondence school all by himself. We expect to spring a big surprise in this membership campaign. If you want to be in on it, get that member.

THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS, AGAIN.

The ground and the buildings which the Pittsburgh Laboratory of the Bureau of Standards occupies on Butler Street belong to the War Department. They are part of the old Allegheny Arsenal. The War Department now has use for them and is turning the Bureau of Standards out. This is said to account for the proposed removal of part of the work of the Laboratory to Washington. It is stated, on good authority, however, that most of the physical testing work of the Bureau will remain here.

If it is merely a question of securing a proper site for the Laboratory, it will be to the shame of Pittsburgh that it did not come forward with a proposal to solve the problem. This whole matter is worthy of investigation. The Pittsburgh Laboratory of the Bureau of Standards should be kept intact provided the interest of science and industry can best be served in that way.

WHAT SAY YOU?

Readers of The Crucible will remember the letter in the April number which called attention to the advertisement of platinum jewelry by a certain Pittsburgh firm in, at least, three of the newspapers.

The Crucible regrets to state that the Press, the Sun and the Post continue to carry an advertisement for platinum jewelry from the firm of Sam F. Sipe. The intent of this ad. is that because the Government has commandeered all crude platinum, which was done as a war measure, platinum jewelry pieces have acquired a greatly enhanced scarcity value. Readers of the advertisement are invited to deposit with the firm of Sam F. Sipe a sum to pay for the platinum plus the war profiteering value.

It is very probable, if the war keeps up much longer, that the Government will commandeer platinum jewelry just as it has the crude material. The Crucible suggests that Uncle Sam mark the name of Sam F. Sipe in his notebook 'gainst that day. It may come in handy.

THE PRESS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

It was good news to read in the May number of The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry that the Directors of the American Chemical Society had decided to continue the work of the Press and Publicity Committee. This decision is ample justification for the action which the Pittsburgh Section took last September in continuing the local committee.

Dr. Herty put the whole case for the pubilicity work of the Society in the January number of the Journal, when he said:

> "We live in a democracy, and under such conditions sure foundations can be laid only in broad educational work from the bottom upward. Our people through their newspapers should have opportunity to learn more of chemistry treated in a popular way, and should be brought into a more sympathetic relationship with American chemists through the record of their achievements. Such work is pre-eminently the function of the American Chemical Society, an organization which has no propaganda to promote other than the welfare of this country through increased appreciation of chemistry."

It is hoped that the members of the Pittsburgh Section will take an increased interest in the work of its Publicity Committee and will send along articles on Chemistry which have news value.

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YOUR BIT, PLUS.

We heard, during the past week, of an old Jewish peddler who, when purchasing a Liberty Bond, said that he wanted one without coupons as he desired to loan his money without interest to the country which had done so much for him. We also heard of the minister of a German Church who had members of his congregation up at 4 o'clock in the morning baking bread and cakes which were to be sold for the benefit of the American Red Cross.

We are telling you these things, brother chemist, lest you may think, after you have purchased Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps, that you have done your bit. Each one of us will have to do something more than his bit before this old earth will have anything on the kingdom of Beelzebub.

PUFFED UP!

The Crucible is somewhat puffed up these days. It's great big mother, The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, reprinted in the May issue a summary of Dr. Scholes' address "Permanence as an Ideal of Research," which first appeared in the March number of The Crucible. A few weeks ago, the Pittsburgh Dispatch copied one of The Crucibles editorials and—pray, hold your breath—one of the jokes.

The Crucible is not yet so puffed up that it thinks it could not be better. It could, with your help and your suggestions. Let 'em come along.

THE APRIL MEETING.

Those who were absent from the April meeting of the Section, at which Dr. Marks Neidle talked, missed a chemical feast. It was a genuine pleasure to listen to a man who knew so much about his subject and who had his material so well in hand. The Chairman expressed the sentiment of those who were present when he said that Dr. Neidle had caused more chemistry to be spilled at the meeting than had been in many a moon.

THE CHEMICAL EXPO.

We have not been asked to mention it nor has the management offered as yet to advertise it in The Crucible, but we do want to call attention, at this early date, to the Fourth Exposition of Chemical Industries, which will be held in New York the week of September 23rd. Put it down in your note-book and plan now to attend. It will give you a new outlook on your profession.

GET THAT MEMBER

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

Parties interested in any of the following are asked to communicate with Prof. A. Silverman, Chairman of the Employment Committee, University of Pittsburgh.

Request—If you have already taken one of the positions brought to your attention by the Employment Committee, or if you have employed one of the chemists suggested by the Employment Committee, kindly notify the chairman, so that a proper record may be made of the case.

CHEMISTS WANTED.

Steel analyst (no alloys) $100 per month.

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Steel analyst, principally carbon and chromium, $100 to $150 per month.

Analyst, non-ferrous metals, $100 to $125 per month.

Caretaker for chemical stock, $100 per month.

Two research chemists for plant tests on apparatus and operations in steel works, $150 to $175 per month.

Chemists for new industry, $110 to $125 per month.

Chemist for water softening plant, $100 to $125 per month.

POSITIONS WANTED.

Analytical chemist, $75 per month.

General testing laboratory, $150 per month.

Silicate industries, $125 per month.

Organic or food research, $300 per month.

Industrial laboratory, $125 per month.

Glass laboratory, $150 per month.

Glass laboratory, $200 per month.

Organic research, $200 per month.

Food, sanitary or pharmaceutical laboratory, $150 per month.

Iron and steel laboratory, $150 per month.

Analytical laboratory, $100 per month.

Organic laboratory (female), $100 per month.

Organic laboratory, $115 per month to $125 per month.

EVEN SO!

Said B. T. Yew to C. O'Two,
"I work best when I work with you."
Said C. O'Two to B. T. Yew,
"When we are scarce the steam is too."

—Fecony.

TEAM WORK.

It aint the guns nor armament
Nor funds that they can pay,
But the close co-operation
That makes them win the day.

It ain't the individuals
Nor the army as a whole,
But the everlastin' team work
Of every bloomin' soul.

—Kipling.

SO SAY WE ALL.

Ed. says, "If I meet Nernst in the trenches I'm going to kill him twice. Once for being a German and once for writing all that Physical Chemistry.

—The Illinois Chemist.

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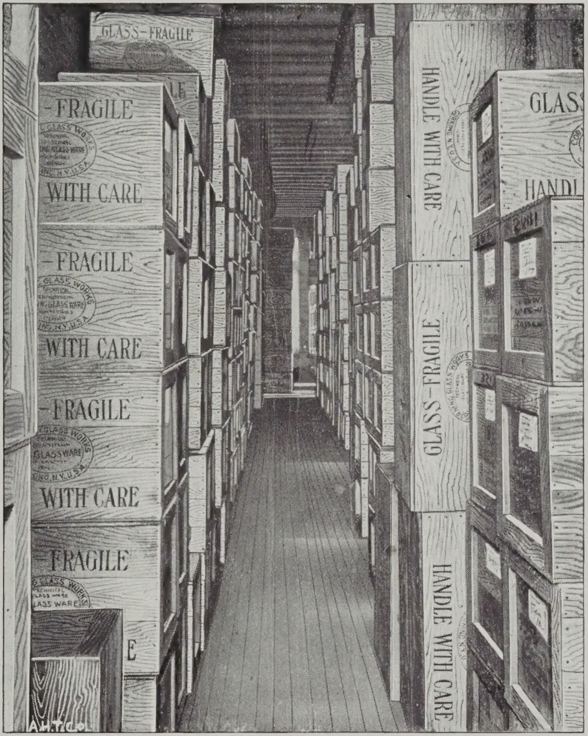

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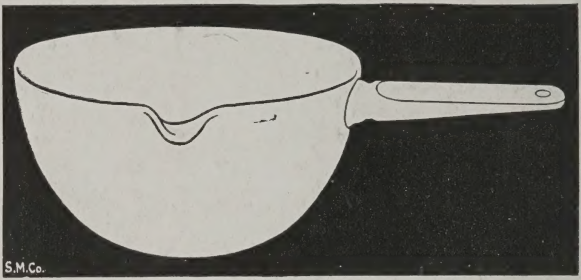

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